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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US79/00214 (22) International Filing Date: 5 April 1979 (05.04.79) (31) Priority Application Number: 903,437 (32) Priority Date: 8 May 1978 (08.05.78) (33) Priority Country: US (71) Applicant: EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY [US/US]; 343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650 (US). (72) Inventors: JACKSON, Jr., Winston, Jerome; 4408 Greensprings Circle, Kingsport, TN 37664 (US). MORRIS, John Craft; 359 Summerville Road, King- sport, TN 37663 (US).</p>		<p>(74) Agent: KLINE, William, H., J.; Eastman Kodak Compa- ny, 343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650 (US). (81) Designated States: DE (European patent), FR (Euro- pean patent), GB (European patent), JP. Published with: <i>International search report</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: LIQUID CRYSTAL COPOLYESTERS</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>Liquid crystal copolyesters having melting points low enough to allow the copolyesters to be melt-processed in conventional equipment. The copolyesters are prepared from terephthalic acid, 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid, a diacyl ester of hydroquinone and a diacyl ester of resorcinol and contain the following divalent radicals:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>		

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LIQUID CRYSTAL COPOLYESTERSTechnical Field

This invention relates to liquid crystal co-
5 polyesters having the high mechanical properties of
liquid crystal copolyesters and melting points low
enough to allow the copolyesters to be melt-processed
into useful articles using commercially available
equipment.

10 Background of the Invention

Liquid crystal copolyesters that are all-aro-
matic have excellent mechanical properties. Examples
of these polyesters are the copolyesters prepared from
terephthalic acid, 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid,
15 hydroquinone and resorcinol. U.S. Patents 3,160,602 and
3,778,410 describe processes that can be used to prepare
these copolyesters. It has been difficult to use these
copolyesters because the melting points of the polymers
have been so high that the polymers cannot be melted
20 and formed into useful articles in conventional process-
ing equipment.

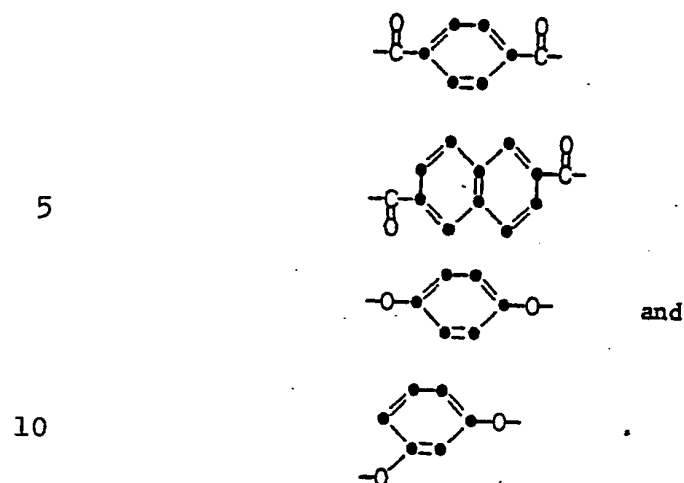
Disclosure of Invention

We have found that certain all-aromatic co-
polyesters prepared from terephthalic acid, 2,6-
25 naphthalene dicarboxylic acid, hydroquinone and resor-
cinol have melting points that are low enough to permit
the copolyesters to be processed into useful articles,
such as fibers and molded articles, in conventional
equipment.

30 The copolyesters of this invention are prepared
from terephthalic acid, 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic
acid, a diacyl ester of hydroquinone and a diacyl ester
of resorcinol and can be defined as copolyesters
having molecular weights suitable for forming fibers and
35 containing the following divalent radicals:



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In our copolyesters the range of terephthalic acid is from 20 to 50 mole percent, based on the total moles of terephthalic acid and 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid combined. Since the range of terephthalic acid is based on the sum of the moles of terephthalic acid and 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid, at 20 mole percent terephthalic acid the copolyesters have 80 mole percent 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid and at 50 mole percent terephthalic acid the copolyesters have 50 mole percent 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid.

In preferred copolyesters the range of terephthalic acid is from 30 to 45 mole percent, based on the total moles of terephthalic acid and 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid combined.

Also in our copolyesters the amount of resorcinol is from 20 to 65 mole percent, based on the total moles of hydroquinone and resorcinol combined. Thus, at 25 mole percent resorcinol, the copolyesters have 75 mole percent hydroquinone, and at 65 mole percent resorcinol the copolyesters have 35 mole percent hydroquinone.

In preferred copolyesters the range of resorcinol is from 30 to 50 mole percent, based on the total moles of resorcinol and hydroquinone.

The precise manner in which the melting points of the copolyesters of the invention are unexpectedly lower than the melting points of similar copolyesters is illustrated in the Figure.

5 In the Figure the amount of terephthalic acid, based on the total moles of terephthalic acid and 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid, has been plotted on the abscissa. The temperature in degrees Centigrade has been plotted on the ordinate. Melting points have been
10 plotted for copolyesters of the invention, containing a quantity of terephthalic acid in the range of 20 to 50 mole percent, based on the total moles of terephthalic acid and 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid. Suitable curves have been drawn through the data points
15 for copolyesters containing the same amount of resorcinol. For example, the lowermost curve drawn through the closed circular data points represents the melting points of copolyesters containing 40 mole percent resorcinol, based on the total moles of hydroquinone and
20 resorcinol combined.

The data for the copolyesters of the invention were obtained by preparing each of the copolyesters using a process known in the art and then determining the melting points of each copolyester.

25 The copolyesters of the invention were prepared by an acidolysis procedure whereby terephthalic acid, 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid, a diacyl ester of hydroquinone and a diacyl ester of resorcinol were reacted under an increasing temperature ranging up to
30 340-380°C. and a decreasing pressure to form a high molecular weight polymer. As a specific example, the following procedure was used to prepare a copolyester from 40 mole percent terephthalic acid and 60 mole percent 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid, based on the
35 moles of terephthalic acid and 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid combined, and 60 mole percent hydroquinone and

40 mole percent resorcinol, based on the moles of hydroquinone and resorcinol combined.

A mixture of 33.2 g. (0.20 mole) terephthalic acid, 64.8 g. (0.30 mole) 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid, 38.8 g. (0.20 mole) resorcinol diacetate, and 66.6 g. (0.30 mole) hydroquinone dipropionate was placed in a 500-ml. flask equipped with a stirrer, short distillation column and an inlet for nitrogen. The flask was evacuated and purged three times with nitrogen and dried at 100-110°C. for 30 minutes at 0.3 mm. pressure before being immersed in a bath at 275°C. After the mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at 280°C., the temperature was raised to 300°C. for 30 minutes and then to 325°C. for 30 minutes. Finally the temperature was raised to 355°C. for 25 minutes and a vacuum of 0.5 mm. was applied. The polymerization was complete within 20 to 30 minutes. The tough, fibrous, opaque polymer obtained had a softening point of 332°C. and a melting point of 341°C. Fibers with tenacities >3 g./denier can be melt spun at 360°C. Heat-treated fibers had tenacities of 10 g./denier and higher.

The other copolyesters containing different amounts of 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid, terephthalic acid, hydroquinone and resorcinol were prepared by a similar procedure but using slightly different reaction temperatures because of differences in melting points.

Solid-phase polymerization also may be used to increase the molecular weight of the copolyesters of the invention by heating polymer particles in an inert atmosphere or under reduced pressure at a temperature below that at which the particles will become tacky and tend to fuse together. Since this thermal treatment may give polymers with increased crystallinity and melting points, compared to melt phase

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polymerization, melt phase polymerization is generally preferred. Solid-phase polymerization is preferred, however, if the melting point is above 380°C.

5 The melting points of the copolyesters of the invention were determined with a differential scanning calorimeter.

10 The accompanying Figure shows that the melting points of the copolyesters of the invention containing 20 to 50 mole percent terephthalic acid and 20 to 65 mole percent resorcinol are unexpectedly lower than the melting points of copolyesters containing less than 20 or more than 50 mole percent terephthalic acid. For example, consider the copolyester which contains a constant value of 40 mole percent resorcinol and is represented by the lower curve connecting the closed circular data points. When the amount of terephthalic acid is below 20 mole percent, the melting point is above 400°C. As the amount of terephthalic acid is increased, the melting point falls and reaches a minimum value of 15 330°C. at 30 mole percent terephthalic acid. As the amount of terephthalic acid is increased, the melting point increases and is 385°C. at 50 mole percent terephthalic acid.

25 Although the details of the reduction in melting point have been discussed only for the copolyesters containing 40 mole percent resorcinol, the same lowering of the melting point applies to the other copolyesters of this invention. For example, the melting point of the copolyesters containing 20 and 60 mole percent resorcinol is also substantially lowered when from 20 to 50 mole percent terephthalic acid is used. Although melting point data is not plotted for copolyesters containing less than 20 mole percent terephthalic acid, it is clear from the shape of the curve melting 30 points are above 400°C.



A wide variety of diacyl esters of hydroquinone and resorcinol can be used to prepare the copolyesters of this invention. Examples of diesters include the diacetate, dipropionate, dibutyrate and dibenzoate.

5 The diacetate and dipropionate are preferred.

The copolyesters of this invention can contain minor amounts of other naphthalenedicarboxylic acid isomers in addition to the 2,6-isomer. Also, minor amounts of dicarboxylic acids other than terephthalic acid and diols other than hydroquinone can be used. The copolyesters of this invention can also contain nucleating agents, fillers, pigments, glass fibers, asbestos fibers, antioxidants, stabilizers, plasticizers, lubricants, fire-retardants, and other additives.

15 The inherent viscosity of the copolyesters of this invention cannot be determined because the copolyesters of this invention are insoluble in typical solvents used for determining inherent viscosity. Although the inherent viscosity of the copolyesters of the invention has not been measured, the molecular weights of the copolyesters of the invention are high enough to be in the fiber-forming range. The minimum fiber-forming molecular weight of the copolyesters is about 5,000. In most cases copolyesters of the invention have molecular weights above 8,000 and can have molecular weights as high as 20,000 and in some instances the molecular weights can range up to 25,000 or even higher.

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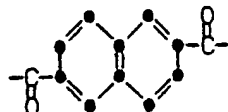
We Claim:

1. Copolyesters having a fiber-forming molecular weight and containing the following divalent radicals:

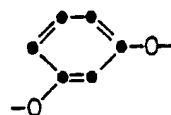
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the copolyesters being characterized by the amount of

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being from 20 to 50 mole percent,

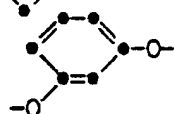
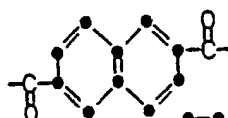
based on the total moles of



and

combined, and the amount of

25



being from 20 to 65 mole percent,

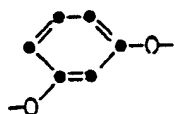
based on the total moles of



and

combined.

30



2. The copolyester of Claim 1 wherein the

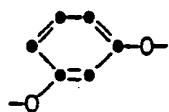
range of the amount of



is from 30 to

35

45 mole percent and the range of the amount of



is from 30 to 50 mole percent.